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Carolina Crown Wins World Championship Following Summer Rehearsals at GWU

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Office of University Communications

August 20, 2013

Ongoing Relationship with Gardner-Webb Provides Essential Preparation

BOILING SPRINGS, N.C. – For several years, Gardner-Webb University has hosted the world-renowned drum and bugle corps Carolina Crown for spring and summer training. Earlier this month, Carolina Crown was announced as the winner of the distinguished 2013 DCI (Drum Corps International) World Championships Competition.

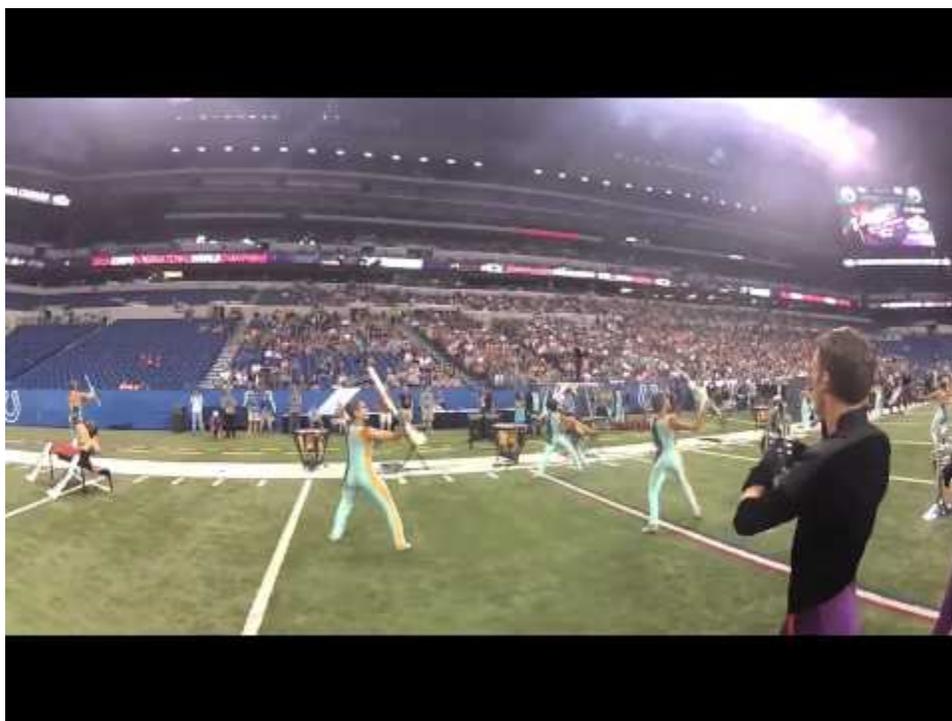
Carolina Crown's production, *E=mc²*, propelled them to overall victory in the championships with a final score of 98.30. That score was good enough to defeat the defending champion, the Concord, Calif. Blue Devils. Carolina Crown was also awarded best visual production, brass, and general effect. Carolina Crown had to survive three rounds of competition to win the event, which was held at Lucas Oil Stadium (the home to the NFL's Indianapolis Colts) in Indianapolis, Ind.

"Gardner-Webb offers us the facilities and time we need to be prepared to enter competitions," said Jim Coates, executive director and CEO for Carolina Crown. "Having the rehearsal fields, along with the atmosphere, use of the dorms, and food court are all an essential part of our preparation."

Carolina Crown, based in Fort Mill, S.C., is a non-profit youth performing arts organization offering young people musical and visual performing opportunities throughout the Carolinas and Southeast. Carolina Crown programs includes *Carolina Crown Drum Corps*, a world-class national touring group consisting of participants 17-22 years of age, *Middle and High School Honor Bands*, and *PIE (Partners in Education Program)* where logistical services and fundraisers are offered to bands in the southeast.

Thanks in part to the GWU School of Performing and Visual Arts; Carolina Crown has been working with Gardner-Webb for the last six years as the national touring group prepares for national tours.

In May, a 150-member drum and bugle corps group lived and worked on the Gardner-Webb campus for 28 days before heading to the west coast to begin the competitions process.



Watch Video At: <https://youtu.be/gjTI8PwQZrQ>

“Our music department has benefited directly from high school students who have come to campus through a Carolina Crown event,” said GWU Director of Athletic Bands and Coordinator of Music Education Mark Cole. “Many have chosen to attend Gardner-Webb upon graduation from high school. Talk about great visibility.”

The competition season for Carolina Crown has officially concluded, but negotiations are underway to bring Carolina Crown back to Gardner-Webb in 2014 for spring and summer training camp.

More information about Carolina Crown is available online at carolinacrown.org or through the GWU School of Performing and Visual Arts at 704-406-4448.